

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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TAGS: PFOR IS XV VE

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN TURNS DOWN PLO REQUEST FOR MISSION IN CARACAS

SUMMARY: GOV ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 18 THAT IT HAD DENIED A REQUEST BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN CARACAS, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO ESTABLISH CORDINAL RELATIONS WHEN A PALESTINIAN STATE IS CONSTITUTED. GOV ANNOUNCEMENT RESPONDED TO A PLO COMMUNIQUE WARNING THAT THE GOV'S DECISION DID NOT SERVE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH ARAB PEOPLES, "ESPECIALLY THE PEOPLES OF OPEC COUNTRIES." END SUMMARY.

1. CARACAS DAILY EL UNIVERSAL ON DECEMBER 18 PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY:

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AT THE REQUEST OF THE PLO, EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE ORGANIZATION TO SEND A DELEGATION TO VISIT CARACAS. PLO REPRESENTATIVES WERE RECEIVED ON NOVEMBER 7 AND EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO ACCREDIT A PERMANENT

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DELEGATION TO THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT.

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS EXPRESSED VENEZUELA'S SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND REVIEWED FOR THE VISITING DELEGATION THE POSITION WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT HAD ASSUMED WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

"THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE PROPOSAL TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS THROUGH THE CREATION OF PLO OFFICE IN VENEZUELA.

"THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, REITERATING ITS DECIDED SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, DECIDED TO TURN DOWN THE PLO REQUEST, SINCE OUR GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS RELATIONS ONLY WITH STATES AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES. WHILE RESPONDING IN THIS WAY TO THE PLO REQUEST, THE GOV REITERATED ITS SUPPORT AND OFFERED ITS COMPLETE COOPERATION TO ENABLE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, THROUGH CHANNELS FOR DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES, TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE OUTCOME, WHICH COULD PERMIT IN THE FUTURE THE FORMATION OF A STATE OF PALESTINE WITH WHICH VENEZUELA WILL MAINTAIN THE MOST CORDIAL RELATIONS."

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDOUBTEDLY FELT COMPELLED TO MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SINCE THE PLO PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE IN THE CARACAS PRESS DECEMBER 18. THE COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZED THE GOV FOR DELAYING AND THEN REJECTING, WHEN THE PLO DELEGATION RETURNED TO VENEZUELA ON NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 17, THE PLO'S PROPOSAL FOR OPENING AN OFFICE IN CARACAS. KEY PARAGRAPHS OF THE PLO COMMUNIQUE FOLLOW:

"THE PLO DELEGATION NOTED WITH HEAVY HEART THAT IT HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO ITS PROPOSALS AND THAT IT WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE PLO WAS NOT BEGGING RECOGNITION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT RATHER THAT IT WAS PURSUING THIS OBJECTIVE WITH THE FORCE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE AND ON THE BASIS OF THE JUSTICE AND LEGITIMACY OF THEIR CAUSE. MOREOVER, THE DELEGATION INDICATED THAT THIS INDECISION ON THE PART OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT SERVE IN THE LEAST TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE ARAB PEOPLES, UNCLASSIFIED

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ESPECIALLY THE PEOPLES OF THE OPEC COUNTRIES. NEITHER DID IT SERVE THE INTEREST OF CONSOLIDATING RELATIONS WITH THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE, VETERAN FIGHTERS AGAINST FOREIGN DOMINATION AND IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

"THE PLO DELEGATION DID NOT MAKE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT BEYOND THAT WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN RE-

LATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES BASED ON THE UN RESOLUTIONS WHICH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED.

"DESPITE THIS LAMENTABLE NEGATIVE POSITION OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, THE PLO DELEGATION PROCLAIMS THAT IT WILL FOLLOW ITS FIRM POLICY OF STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH THE FRIENDLY PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA AND WITH ITS PATRIOTIC AND FORWARD-LOOKING FORCES THAT FIGHT FOR THE PROGRESS OF VENEZUELA, THE ADVANCEMENT OF ITS PEOPLE AND FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY OF ALL THE WORLD'S PEOPLE AND AGAINST INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM LED BY NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS."
SHLAUDEMAM

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